

Editorial

Needed: a special prosecutor

President Nixon and United States Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst have assured the American people that justice will be done in the case of the June 17 break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington.

The ongoing investigation is two-fold: the Watergate headquarters break-in, and the admitted failure of the Republican party to report a large volume of campaign contributions received after the April 7 deadline for disclosure of such contributions. Mr. Nixon concedes the party's violation of the new law.

That the President and the attorney general have given assurances that justice will be done is good. But neither is in favor of a special, nonpartisan prosecutor to handle the case.

President Nixon was asked Tuesday at San Clemente:

"Mr. President, wouldn't it be a good idea for a special prosecutor, even from your standpoint, to be appointed to investigate the contribution situation and also the Watergate case?"

President Nixon replied that investigations are being carried out by the FBI, the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, and the Government Accounting Office. His conclusion:

"I don't believe that adding another special prosecutor would serve any useful purpose."

The President says that no one in the White House staff or the administration, presently employed, was involved in the Watergate break-in.

But it is also a fact that a \$25,000 campaign contribution passed through the hands of Maurice Stans, Mr. Nixon's chief fundraiser, and wound up in a bank account controlled by one of five men caught with bugging equipment in the Democratic committee headquarters.

We believe that appointment of a special prosecutor is in the best interest of the American people. The office of attorney general is part of the administration. In a case this serious, there should be no hint of compromise.

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